
ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Information about The Ohio Academy of Science

The Ohio Academy of Science
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*The Academy is the common meeting ground
of the scientific activities of the State.*

-- Paul M. Rea

IN THE BEGINNING

In 1891 the promise of hearty cooperation from many Ohio scientists sparked the establishment of The Ohio Academy of Science - one of this nation's leading scientific organizations. Wisdom, vision and leadership have enabled the Academy to grow, serve society and influence an ever widening circle of members and friends in Ohio, many other states and in several foreign countries.

Many changes have occurred during the Academy's history, but one thing remains constant: the need to maintain and improve the climate for innovation and discovery. This climate has been remarkably aided by the persistent, enthusiastic pursuit of the Academy's objectives: to stimulate interest in the sciences, to promote research, to improve instruction in the sciences, to disseminate scientific knowledge and to recognize high achievements in attaining these objectives.

Initiated by the scientists of Ohio, the Academy continues to advance the cause of science and sound knowledge in a manner beneficial to its members and an honor to the state. For decades Academy members have distinguished themselves as leaders in research, education, business and industry.

The Academy's legislative body is a council of officers, committee chairpersons and section officers. The Executive Committee administers the Academy through a professional staff.

In these few pages you will learn why nearly a century of service has earned the Academy the respect and reputation as the common meeting ground of scientific activities of the state.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Sections span the realm of science and are the building blocks of the Academy's activities. Anyone interested in science may join. Reflecting the development of science and research in general, the membership of the Academy has gradually broadened to include both basic and applied disciplines. A diversity of disciplines provides many choices for membership participation.

Each section is managed by three officers - a Vice President-elect, Vice President and Membership Chairperson - who perfect their own section's activities to suit the needs of membership. The primary activity is planning and carrying out a successful annual meeting program. Some sections sponsor special symposia and field trips. All sections provide an extensive talent base for special projects. Although the current sections offer a niche for nearly everyone, new sections are established whenever needs arise and support is demonstrated.

Individual members are employed by research laboratories, universities, colleges, governmental agencies, technical institutes, high schools, elementary schools, businesses, industries, trade and professional associations, museums, arboreta and nature centers in Ohio, other states and foreign countries. Members who have made significant contributions to science and to the Academy may be elected Fellows.

Through section activities, professional contact is promoted with colleagues working in similar areas of interest. Sections include: zoology, plant sciences, geology, medical sciences, physics and astronomy, geography, chemistry, science education, anthropology and sociology, natural resources, genetics and cell biology, math and computer sciences, psychology, Junior Academy (for high school students), engineering, administrative sciences and planning, economics, ecology, and information and library sciences.

ANNUAL MEETING

Biological Investigation of Waters, The Coal Supply of the World and Science for the Blind, three of the 26 papers presented at the Academy's first meeting in 1891, illustrate both the timely and timeless

nature of topics at Academy meetings. In addition to popular topics, thousands of important findings have been discussed - many on the frontiers of science. Academy meetings record the development of science in mid-America.

A smorgasbord of scientific delights awaits those who savor the fare at the Academy's Annual Meeting. Each meeting is hosted by a different college or university in a pleasant campus setting that adds an important amenity to the event.

Three hundred or more papers, special symposia, field trips, a banquet, Presidential address and other activities in a cordial atmosphere provide unexcelled opportunities for communication. As the founding members of the Academy said, "Experience proves that no better means has been devised for friendly and social reunion of those engaged in kindred activities."

Few other opportunities exist for young scientists to establish themselves among peers and senior scientists than by presenting the results of their research at an Academy meeting. Here, eminent researchers have made their first contribution to science. The careers of numerous scientists can be traced by papers they have presented during their lifetimes before the Academy. The sharing of knowledge and experience on a common ground fosters lifetime friendships in the advancement of science.

The Ohio Journal of Science

Nearly 90 years of continuous service to science and society are recorded on the pages of *The Ohio Journal of Science* - the official publication of The Ohio Academy of Science. As well known in Copenhagen as in Columbus, the *Journal* is widely distributed to members in Ohio, many other states and in nearly 60 foreign countries.

The *Journal* provides ready access to the scientific achievements of nearly four generations of midwestern scientists. A liberal policy allowing re-publication of articles has led to wide dissemination of information originally published in the *Journal*. Inclusion of the *Journal* in standard abstracting and indexing services and broad foreign distribution assure extensive placement in the international literature.

Annually the *Journal* includes over 250 pages of information in four regular issues plus the April Annual Meeting Program Abstracts. Like the Annual Meeting, the *Journal* frequently serves scientists as a way of making their first contribution to science. And it continues to publish the work of many eminent scientists as well.

JUNIOR ACADEMY

More lives have been touched by the Junior Academy than by any other Academy program. Over three generations of Ohioans - exceeding 500,000 - have participated in some way to make this program a model among all states.

Established for the purpose of discovering and fostering ability in science among high school students, the Junior Academy traces its origin to a district science conference at Springfield, Ohio in 1932. The roots of the Junior Academy go deep and derive sustenance from the common interest and cooperation of thousands of volunteers - professional scientists and engineers, teachers, students, parents and many others.

Science Day Programs - at local, district and state levels - are promoted through a decentralized administration involving over a dozen colleges and universities serving as district centers. State Science Day was first held at Denison University in 1949 and attracted 78 students. The progressive develop-

ment of science projects and the communication of results to peers are the underlying themes of most Junior Academy activities annually affecting more than 30,000 students in grades 7-12.

Structured to permit participation in an atmosphere closely resembling that of senior scientists, the Junior Academy Section affords high school students full membership benefits in the Academy. Selected students at the Annual Meeting are invited to present their papers on behalf of The Ohio Academy of Science at the national meeting of the American Junior Academy of Science held at the same time as the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Academy promotes cooperation between academic and industrial scientists, provides advice to public policy makers, recognizes excellence in education and research, and works to improve science education through boards of education, federal and state agencies, teachers, students, and administrators.

The Academy fosters the public understanding of science by publications, though work with the media, through cooperation with science museums and science centers, and by maintaining a public information and referral center.

The Academy provides board members or representatives for The Ohio Historical Society, The Ohio Biological Survey, the National Association of Academies of Science and The American Association for the Advancement of Science.

From these activities has developed a legacy of leaders - scientists, engineers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, teachers - citizens in all walks of life - who are making lasting contributions to science and society for the benefit of society.

With the personal interest and support of the late Charles F. Kettering and assistance from Battelle Memorial Institute the Academy established an executive office in 1959. Significant growth and development resulted from that initial support, but to meet the challenges and opportunities of its second century, the Academy has established a new framework for a development program.

Centennial Celebration Commission

The Ohio General Assembly has established The Ohio Academy of Science Centennial Celebration Commission. The Commission will develop and execute suitable plans for the Academy's Centennial. The Commission is also charged by the legislation to establish The Ohio Academy of Science Foundation to finance the Commission's work and to endow the Academy programs, activities and publications. Centennial activities are expected to raise the visibility of the Academy among a variety of constituents thus paving the way for a capital funds campaign by The Ohio Academy of Science Foundation.

Further Information

The Academy is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio and has been classified as 501(c)(3) and as not-a-private-foundation by the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts to the Academy qualify as charitable contributions which entitle a donor to federal income, estate and gift tax exemptions under the IRS Code.

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